

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 SSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /138 W

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R 031410Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0490

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON "BIRTH" OF EGYPT/LIBYAENTITY

REF: TRIPOLI 1126

1. HAVE LEARNED THROUGH UK AMBASSADOR THAT FRENCH
AMBASSADOR OBTAINED FOLLOWING FROM TUNISIAN FONMIN
MASMOUDI DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT HERE WITH
BOURGUIBA TO HELP CELEBRATE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBYAN
REVOLUTION ON SEPTEMBER ONE: AT CAIRO EARLIER THAT WEEK
QADHAFI REJECTED SADAT'S UNITY FORMULAE AND WAS ONLY
PERSUADED TO SIGN THEIR JOINT DECLARATION OF AUGUST 29
ON "THE BIRTH OF A NEW, UNIFIED ARAB STATE" AFTER PRESSURE FROM
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LIBYAN RCC (JALLUD, AL-HUNI AND
MUHAISHI HAD BEEN PRESENT). LATTERS' ARGUMENT HAD
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BEEN THAT TOO MUCH FACE WOULD BE LOST ALL AROUND IF,

AFTER A YEAR OF CONTINUAL TALK, NOTHING HAPPENED BY THEIR SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER ONE. QADHAFI SIGNED ONLY GRUDGINGLY AND THIS WAS REASON HE REFUSED TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC THAT DATE, WHEN OBVIOUSLY HE COULD NOT AVOID THE ISSUE.

2. ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, NEWSWEEK EDITOR, TELLS ME HE GIVEN A SIMILAR STORY BY HEYKAL, AL-AHRAM EDITOR, WHO CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND. HEYKAL SAID THAT SADAT/ QADHAFI TALKS BROKE DOWN COMPLETELY AND SADAT CALLED ON HIM TO PATCH THINGS UP. HE SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO, BUT ONLY AFTER FIVE HOURS OF TALK WITH QADHAFI. (RCC PRESSURES DID NOT FIGURE IN THIS ACCOUNT.)

3. DESPITE THIS VERY SHAKY BIRTH OF A NEW ENTITY, AS YET UNNAMED, BOTH PARTNERS HAVE TO DATE MET THEIR IMMEDIATE COMMITMENTS TO IT ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE AUGUST 29 ANNOUNCEMENT: (A) APPOINTMENT OF 50 MEMBERS EACH TO A CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY (FBIS M021335), (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "ARAB DINAR" ACCOUNT (FBIS M010533), (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF A "FREE ECONOMIC ZONE" ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, FROM MERSA MATRUH TO TOBRUK (FBIS M010623), (D) ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL HEADED BY JALLUD AND EGYPTIAN DY PRIMIN HATIM (FBIS M012206), (E) SELECTION OF AT LEAST THE HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, NAMELY HATIM. IN ADDITION SADAT HAS NAMED HATIM AS RESIDENT MINISTER IN LIBYA, BUT APPARENTLY THE LAR HAS YET TO RECIPROCATATE.

4. WE HAVE TRIED TO RUN A NAME CHECK ON THE 50 LIBYAN MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (FBIS M012253) AND CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THEY ARE NOT DISTINGUISHED. IN FACT THEY ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY UNKNOWN TO US. THIS, PLUS THE EVIDENCE PROVIDED IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR THE GROWTH OF THE NEW ENTITY SUCH AS IT IS.
JOSIF

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